

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/AU03/00449

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER		
Int. Cl. ⁷ : B60P 1/64, 3/42, 3/33, 3/345; B60D 1/36; B62D 53/04, 63/08		
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
B. FIELDS SEARCHED		
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)		
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched		
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) DWPI: IPC B60P 001/64/IC, B60D 001/IC, B62D 053/04/IC, B62D 063/IC and key words CONNECT, ATTACH etc., FRICTION, RAMP etc.		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5718554 A (McELROY) 17 February 1998 Whole document	1-34
X	GB 2220921 A (JOHN G RUSSELL (TRANSPORT) LIMITED) 24 January 1990 Whole document	1-34
X	GB 2240751 A (RITSON) 14 August 1991 Whole document	1-34
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex		
<p>* Special categories of cited documents:</p> <p>"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance</p> <p>"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date</p> <p>"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)</p> <p>"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means</p> <p>"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed</p> <p>"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention</p> <p>"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone</p> <p>"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art</p> <p>"&" document member of the same patent family</p>		
Date of the actual completion of the international search 6 June 2003		Date of mailing of the international search report 17 JUN 2003
Name and mailing address of the ISA/AU AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE PO BOX 200, WODEN ACT 2606, AUSTRALIA E-mail address: pct@ipaustalia.gov.au Facsimile No. (02) 6285 3929		Authorized officer L. DESECAR Telephone No : (02) 6283 2381

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/AU03/00449

C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 90/08052 A (SFERLAZZO) 26 July 1990 Whole document	1-34
X	DE 3108123 A (HÜFFERMANN) 16 September 1982 Whole document	1-34
X	DE 3501107 A (PAUL) 17 July 1986 Whole document	1-34
X	US 4314726 A (ARTWEGER et al.) 9 February 1982 Whole document	1, 17-18, 20
X	US 5967596 A (KNOOP) 19 October 1999 Whole document	1, 17-18, 20
X	Derwent Abstract Accession No. G8430Y/33, Class Q15, SU 534378 A (LENTORGBYTTRANS CAR) 3 March 1977 Abstract	1, 17-18, 20
X	AT 396347 B (WILHELM SCHWARZMÜLLER G.M.B.H.) 25 August 1993 Whole document	1

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/AU03/00449

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos :
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. ☐ Claims Nos :
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:

3. ☐ Claims Nos :
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a)

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

See Supplemental Box.

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. ☒ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.: 1-34

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/AU03/00449

Supplemental Box

(To be used when the space in any of Boxes I to VIII is not sufficient)

Continuation of Box No: II

The international application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention because it does not relate to one invention or to a group of inventions so linked as to form a single general inventive concept. In coming to this conclusion the International Searching Authority has found that there are two different inventions as follows:

1. Claims 1-16 and 24-29 are directed to an apparatus for a vehicle assembly comprising a self propelled vehicle and a load mountable to the vehicle in a mountable position relative to the vehicle and being detachable therefrom, the apparatus involving the features as defined.
2. Claims 17-23 and 30-34 are directed to a vehicle assembly comprising a self propelled vehicle and a load mountable to the vehicle in a mountable position relative to the vehicle and being detachable therefrom, the vehicle assembly including respectively the apparatus as claimed in claims 1-16 and 24-29.
3. Claims 35-39 are directed to a vehicle assembly comprising a self propelled vehicle and a load mountable to the vehicle in a mountable position relative to the vehicle and being detachable therefrom, wherein the vehicle is provided with a first guide means fixed to the vehicle and the load is provided with a second guide means fixed to the load to position the load in the mounted position relative to the vehicle, the guide means involving the features as defined.

In assessing whether these claims possess a single general inventive concept the International Search Authority concludes as follows:

- (a) Independent claims 1, 24 and 17, 30 respectively share the common features in relation to an apparatus having a driving means with the features as defined respectively. It is considered that unity exists *a priori* between the inventions defined in claims 1, 24, 17 and 30 since they possess the same special technical features.
- (b) Independent claims 1, 17, 24, 30 and claim 35 share the common features in relation to a vehicle assembly comprising a self propelled vehicle and a load mountable to the vehicle in a mountable position relative to the vehicle and being detachable therefrom. However these features are not novel for example in the light of the documents US 4314726 A (ARTWEGGER et al.) 9 February 1982 and US 5967596 A (KNOOP) 19 October 1999. Consequently the common features are not a special technical features within the meaning of PCT Rule 13.2, second sentence, since they make no contribution over the prior art. Therefore the invention as define in the claims 1, 17, 24, 30 and claim 35 lack unity *a posteriori*.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No.

PCT/AU03/00449

This Annex lists the known "A" publication level patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report. The Australian Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

Patent Document Cited in Search Report			Patent Family Member				
US	5718554	NONE					
GB	2220921	NONE					
GB	2240751	AU	69068/91	BR	9007903	CA	2070397
		EP	504246	FI	922630	HU	66145
		NO	922244	WO	9108925		
AT	396347	AT	2920/89				
DE	3108123	NONE					
DE	3501107	EP	188280				
US	4314726	DE	3002108	ES	488024	ES	8102028
		GB	2046675	PL	221496		
US	5967596	NONE					
SU	534378	NONE					
WO	90/08052	NONE					
END OF ANNEX							